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**Imagery analysis report**

# **Joint Soviet/Afghan Counterinsurgency Operation, Eastern Afghanistan (S)**

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## JOINT SOVIET/AFGHAN COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATION EASTERN AFGHANISTAN (S)

1. (S/D) A joint Soviet/Afghan regiment-sized task force supported by helicopter gunships was conducting counterinsurgency operations along a 21-nautical-mile (nm) segment of the Alingar River in eastern Afghanistan [redacted]. The task force was dispersed between the towns of Nurestan and Methar Lam (Figure 1). Methar Lam is the capital of Lagham Province and is approximately 17 nm northwest of Jalalabad. Evidence of extensive damage to both private and public property was observed throughout the Alingar Valley. All of the damage and destruction had occurred since the last coverage of the area [redacted].

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2. (S/D) The joint task force consisted of one Soviet motorized rifle regiment, at least one additional Soviet howitzer battery, two Soviet multiple rocket launcher batteries, and one probable Afghan motorized rifle battalion. The Soviet motorized rifle regiment and the attached artillery and multiple rocket launcher elements probably came from the Soviet bivouacs at Pol-E Charki Barracks Division and Regiment Headquarters and Depot [redacted] and Kabul Deployment Area NW [redacted] respectively. The units usually garrisoned at these bivouacs in the Kabul area have been missing [redacted]. The probable Afghan motorized rifle battalion possibly came from one of the installations in the Jalalabad area.

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3. (S/D) The elements of the task force were deployed throughout the valley. Two motorized rifle battalions and two howitzer batteries were field deployed adjacent to Nurestan, at 34-55-52N 070-23-02E. The motorized rifle battalions were dispersed in companies and each company was deployed in a 360-degree defensive pattern (Figure 2). The two howitzer batteries were oriented to the west toward the mountains. Several buildings in the proximity of these units had been destroyed (Figure 3).

4. (S/D) One tank company, one motorized rifle battalion, two howitzer batteries, one BM-21-equipped multiple rocket launcher battery, one motor transport company, and the engineer detachment were dispersed in the vicinity of Sahiat (34-49-53N 070-21-14E). The howitzer batteries were oriented to the west and southwest and the rocket launchers were oriented to the northwest and east toward the mountains on either side of the Alingar Valley (Figure 4). Many of the buildings in the village of Sahi had been destroyed, and the bridge over the Alingar River at Sahi (34-49-50N 070-21-55E) had sustained heavy damage and was probably unusable (Figure 5). Vehicular tracks on both sides of the river, immediately south of the bridge, indicate that vehicles had forded the river.

5. (S/D) In the Myakhel area, a multiple rocket launcher battery was deployed in a circular pattern at 34-46-35N 070-18-40E. In addition, a small probable local government/police compound in Myakhel had been destroyed. A HIND and a HIP helicopter were flying at low altitudes in a southwesterly direction, probably in support of the task force 2.5 nm southwest of Myakhel.

6. (S/D) The command post for the task force was immediately northeast of Methar Lam at 34-40-55N 070-12-50E and consisted of one possible BTR-60 PA, four medium tanks, four BTR-60, one small general purpose tent, and five unidentified vehicles. The tanks and four of the BTR-60 were deployed in a perimeter around the other vehicles. The probable Afghan motorized rifle battalion was collocated with a Soviet tank company just south of the command post at 34-40-25N 070-12-15E. Unlike the Soviets, the probable Afghan unit was parked in formation and not tactically deployed. Probable Afghan rebel positions dispersed along a ridgeline at 34-42-30N 070-09-00E, northwest of Methar Lam, had been overrun. Extensive armor and vehicular tracks were evident through and around the numerous personnel and automatic weapons positions in this area.

### REFERENCES

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### MAPS OR CHARTS

US Army. Joint Operations Graphic (Ground), Series 1501, Sheet NI 42-7, Position 1, scale 1:250,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

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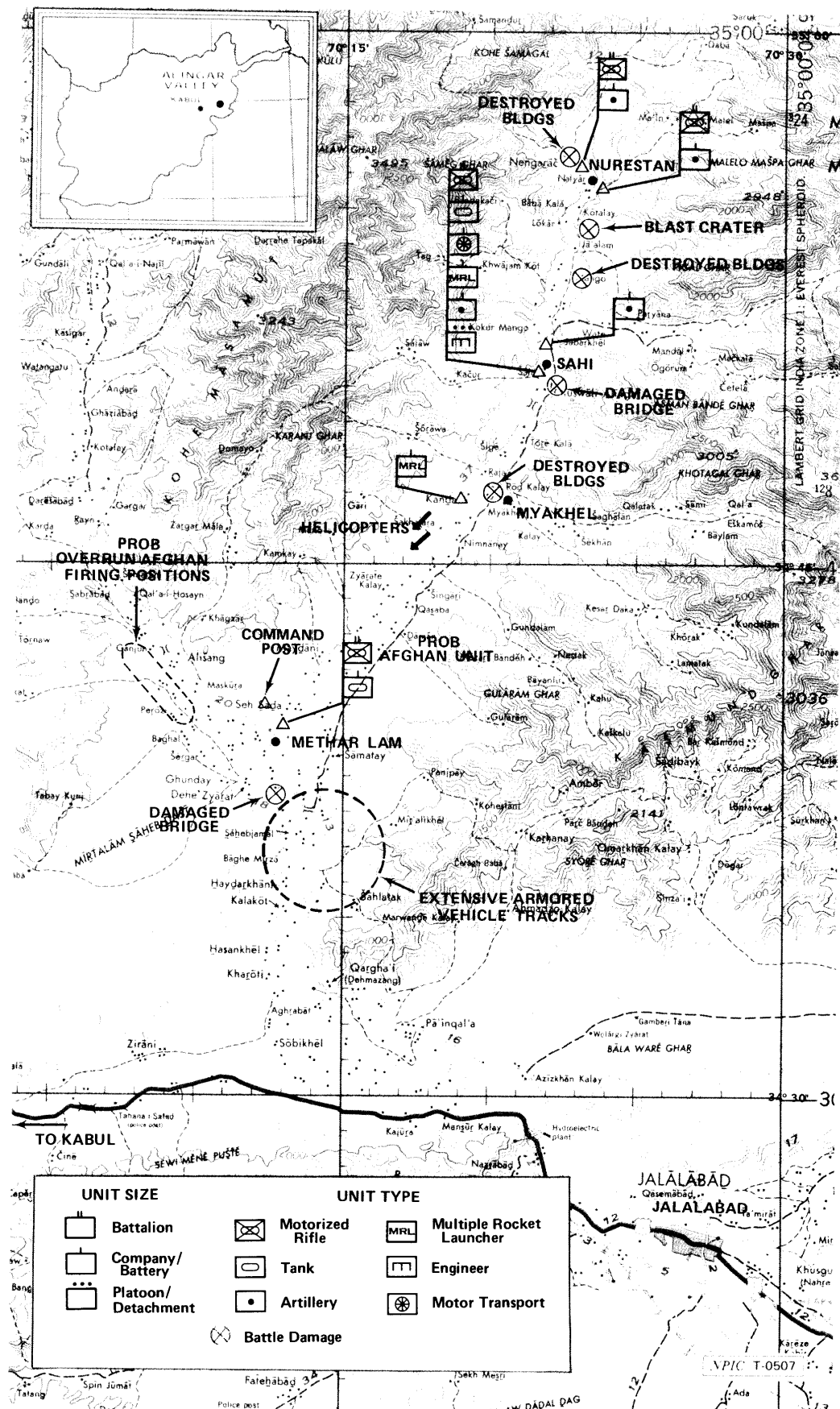


FIGURE 1. AREA OF COMBAT OPERATIONS, ALINGAR VALLEY, AFGHANISTAN

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